



**U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
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Press Release

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Wild Horse and Burro Center to Celebrate 20th Anniversary

The only year-round wild horse and burro adoption center east of the Mississippi will celebrate 20 years of operation by offering hundreds of wild horses for adoption to qualified equine enthusiasts on September 10 and 11, 1999. There will also be wild horse training demonstrations, a trained mustang horse show, and special educational activities for the whole family at the 20th anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 11.

“The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Facility, located near Cross Plains, Tennessee, has adopted thousands of animals to caring people since it opened 20 years ago,” said Hord Tipton, the Bureau’s Eastern States Director. “We’re having this special anniversary celebration to say thanks to the many good adopters who have found extraordinary horses and burros through this facility, and to thank Randall and Paula Carr, the contractors who have done such a great job of running the center for these many years.”

More than 200 wild horses and about 20 wild burros will be available at the Center to qualified people for the adoption fee of \$125. According to Tipton, this will be one of the largest selections of animals ever offered at the Center. “We’ll have mares, stallions, geldings, yearlings, and burros of many colors and sizes at this adoption,” Tipton said.

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The wild horses and burros available for adoption were gathered recently from public rangelands in the west to maintain a balance among grazing wild horse and burro herds and native wildlife and domestic animals. The \$125 fee per animal helps recover some of the expenses the Federal Government incurs for veterinary care and transporting the animals.

You can qualify to adopt by providing a 12 x 12 foot shelter and a 20 x 20 foot corral that has sturdy fencing constructed of pole, pipe, or plank boards at least 6 feet high for horses and 5 feet high for burros. You must have a solidly constructed stock or horse trailer with a covered top and side-swinging back gates (drop ramps are not permitted). Also, you should bring halters and lead ropes. The BLM contract crew will halter and load your foster animals into your trailer. Each animal will have been checked by a veterinarian and will be certified as healthy before leaving the adoption facility.

“Even if you’re not ready to adopt a wild horse or burro at this time, we welcome everyone to come down and watch the horse training demonstrations, a mustang show, and learn more about these ‘Living Legends’ and the western public lands they called home,” Tipton said. There is no admission charge to attend the two day anniversary event.

People who are interested in adopting can call toll free 1-800-376-6009, or you can pick up an application at the Cross Plains Center on Thursday, September 9, between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. or on Friday, September 10 between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. All applicants approved before 9:00 a.m. on September 10 will be eligible for the “lottery” drawing to determine the order in which potential adopters can make their selections. After the lottery participants have selected their animals for adoption, any remaining animals will be available for adoption by qualified adopters who did not participate in the lottery.

The Cross Plains Adoption Facility is located approximately 35 miles north of Nashville, Tennessee. From I-65 North, take exit 112. Travel Highway 25 west for 4 miles and follow the signs to the Center.

For more information about the Wild Horse and Burro Program, visit the web page at:
<http://www.adoptahorse.blm.gov>